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Quick Guide

SPRING 1993



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ON THE COVER

Alexander Nevski Cathedral



Alexander Nevski Memorial Church

The Alexander Nevski Memorial Church was built between 1904 and 1912, and dominates in the centre of Sofia, with its impressive structure (height 53 m; 700 sq. m gold-plated cubes, 12 bells which have the combined weight of 30 tons).

The design was created by the Russian architect A.H.Pomerancev. This concept is close to the late Byzantine type of dome churches, but has some influence by the specific Russian-church architecture. Distinguished Bulgarian and Russian artists created the beautiful frescoes and icons. Among them were: I.Mrkvichka, A.Mitov, T.Todorov, S.Ivanov, N.A.Bruny, V.Savinsky, D.Kiplik, A.Korin and others.

The interior decoration includes high quality coloured marble, Brazilian onyx and alabaster, with their smooth surface, or decorated with embossed ornaments and patterns. The monumental impact of the exterior and the interior makes this memorial church a remarkable creation of the 20th century art.

Underneath the temple there is a crypt,

SOFIA

Quick Guide

Spring 1993

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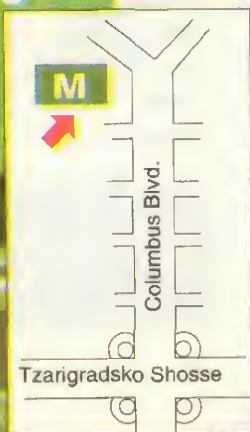
which was originally built as a tomb for the remains of notable clergymen. Since 1965 the crypt is a museum of Bulgarian icons. The exposition includes the most representative icons created in our lands for thousands of years - from the 9th century to the 19th century.

Among the most famous exhibits are: the icon of St.Nicholas of Nessebar from the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the 13th century; the mosaic icon of The Virgin Othigitria from the end of the 13th century; the Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel from the Bachkovo Monastery, 14th century and many other.

The crypt is open every day, except Tuesday, from 10,30am to 6,30pm. Free admission: Sunday. □



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General Information

Important numbers

In Sofia there is no need to dial an area code for local calls. When using the street phones you need a coin of 20 stotinky.

For general telephone information dial 144

For international operator service dial 0123

Emergencies

Medical Emergency	150
Fire	160
Police	166
Traffic Police	165
Road Help	146

Travel and Transportation

Sofia Airport

Domestic flights	72 24 14
International flights	45 11 13
Tickets	88 49 19

Balkan Airlines at Sofia Airport	71 201
Jes Air	80 10 32; 39 02 34

East West European Air Services	46 70 32
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Trains

Central Railway Station Sofia	3 11 11
Sofia North	38 29 28
Rail tickets	87 02 22
Domestic	87 57 42
International	870777 (info) 87 59 35

Bus Stations

North	38 31 91
West	55 30 47
East	45 30 14
South	72 00 63
International	52 50 04

Car Rentals

AVIS RENT A CAR	87 34 12
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BUDGET CAR	70 61 48

Visitor Services

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Interhotels	87 39 01
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Committee for Tourism	84 131
Tourist Information and Reservations,	
State Travel Company	88 01 39
Chamber of Commerce	87 26 31

Financial Services

Bulgarian National Bank	85 51 /886
Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank	84 91

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Reservations: tel.: 2-873412;
fax: 2-873028; tlx: 22811

We try harder

Getting Around

Sofia is a relatively big city, but most of its points of interest, hotels and services are located in its central area. It is not very easy to get around the city, so carrying a map is a good idea. In the city center walking is recommended, because traffic is heavy and parking is scarce.

Buses

Buses are the most popular public transportation in Sofia. The bus fare is 1.50 lv. You need to buy a ticket prior to taking the bus and perforate it when you get on. Bus route's are posted at most bus stations.

Tramway and Trolley-bus

When using the tramway and trolley-bus, you need the same ticket as for the bus. It's



usually much faster and more pleasant to travel by tramway. There is no subway in operation at this time. The Sofia Subway is still in construction.

Taxis

There are quite a lot of different types of taxis driving around Sofia. Although the type of taxi-cars range from Mercedes to Trabant, the fare is the same, about 3 lv. per kilometer. There is a 10 percent increase after 10 P.M.

You can call a cab by phone. The number is 142. They usually come in 10-15 minutes.

A photograph of a city street with several yellow taxis parked. Overlaid on the image is a large blue banner with white text. In the top left corner of the banner is a circular logo with the letters 'EPA'. In the top center is a circular logo with the text 'СЪЮЗ НА БЪЛГАРСКИТЕ АВТОМОБИЛИСТИ' around a steering wheel. The main text on the banner reads: 'UNION OF THE BULGARIAN MOTORISTS', '24 HOURS', and 'ROAD ASSISTANCE SERVICE FOR YOU'.

3 Pozitano Square, Phone (02) 88 39 78 or 146

City Sights

Churches

Alexander Nevski Memorial Church

The Alexander Nevski Memorial Church is a unique piece of architecture, one of the finest on the Balkans. It was built between 1904 and 1912 on drafts by Russian architect Prof.A.N.Pomerantzev in a neo-Byzantine style. Craftsmen and artists from six countries worked on the five-aisle church and created real masterpieces of icons, frescoes, murals and huge chandeliers. The cathedral stands at 25 m high, occupying 3170 sq.m façade of white stone and strikes with its monumental graduation of arches, semi-domes and domes. Some are copperleaf plated, others are gold-plated.

The interior design, made of Italian marble, Egyptian alabaster, Brazilian onyx, gold, mosaics embodies the spirit of the finest Eastern Orthodox traditions.

One of the richest collections of icons in Bulgaria can be seen in the Crypt, located in the Memorial Church.

St. Sofia Church

The St. Sofia Church was built in the sixth century, during the reign of Justinian. It is a triple-nave cross basilica with a dome. All of its mosaic details have survived intact through the years. In the 14th century this unique building gave the city its name.

St. George Rotonda and ruins

This notable brick building was completed in the late fourth century. Its beautiful frescoes and original paintings have been finely preserved.



St. Petka Samardjiiska

The St.Petka Church is one of the few Medieval churches preserved in the city. It was built in the late fourteenth century and features original murals and icons. In order not to irritate the Ottoman conquerors it was deliberately made barely recognisable as a church. The building is small, located in the city-center underpass, rising above the street level.

The Church of St. Nedelya

Built in medieval times and known as the Church of the Blessed Sveti Kral. The current building was reconstructed after 1925 when it was almost completely destroyed by a bomb explosion.

The main Synagogue

Built between 1905 and 1909 in a Moorish style. The interior walls are covered with decorative paintings of floral and geometrical patterns.

The St. Nicholas Russian Church

It was built in 1913 at the behest of a Russian tsarist diplomat, in the tradition of the decorative Moscow architectural style with five gold-plated domes. The church was designed by the Russian architect Preobrazhensky and was dedicated to St.Nicholas the Blessed. The interior features large wall paintings.

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TLX: 23957

AIRPORT:

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TLX: 24345

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CITY OFFICE 3:

Garibaldi Square, tel: 65 84 50

CITY OFFICE 4:

8 Pozitano Str., tel: 81 38 40, 81 47 70

AIRPORT (Arrivals):

tel: 72 01 57, 793 21 ext. 27 66



Significant Historical and Cultural Buildings

National Assembly

The Bulgarian Parliament building was built in 1884 and designed by Vienna architect Konstantin Ivanovich in a Renaissance style.

The St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University

The funds to build the University were donated by the brothers Evlogi and Hristo Georgiev. Their sculptures stand at the main entrance. This beautiful building was completed in 1931 and currently represents the largest center for higher education in Bulgaria.

St. Cyril and St. Methodius National Library

This large building with stylish façade was completed in 1953. It is the biggest book depository in the country.

The library was named after the creators of the Bulgarian alphabet.

The Court House

Built in 1940 in the classical style, the Court House is one of the most impressive buildings in Sofia. Currently some of the exhibits of the National History Museum are on display in part of the building.

The Ivan Vazov National Theatre

Built in the neoclassical style it is a complex architectural compound. Named after the patriarch of Bulgarian literature, the poet Ivan Vazov (1850-1921).

The National Palace of Culture

Opened in 1981 it is the new symbol of Sofia. This cultural center is the largest multi-purpose complex in South-Eastern Europe. It reflects the lively intellectual life in Bulgaria and represents a meeting place of international significance.

Museums

National Museum of History

Sofia 1000, 2 Vitosha Blvd.
Information: tel:88 41 60
Public relations: tel:88 49 37

Working hours:
Monday through Friday
from 9.30 AM to 5.15 PM
Closed: Saturday, Sunday

The National Museum of History is the most important, unique treasure house of the creative spirit of the Bulgarian people during its 14 centuries history and of the civilizations, which flourished on the Bulgarian lands - Prahistoric, Thracian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic...

In its halls are exhibited the famous Thracian and Old Bulgarian Golden and Silver treasures, rich collections of ancient plastic art, icons, religious and sacred vessels, coins, antique armoury and manuscripts, pottery, historical documents and folk art.

The National Art Gallery and the Ethnography Museum

Sofia, 6 Moskovska St.
tel: 88 51 17, tel: 88 35 59

Initially this was built as Turkish army quarters and after the Liberation from Osman rule it was repaired and transformed into the Royal Palace. At the moment it holds the

National Art Gallery and the Ethnography Museum.

The National Art Gallery has a rich collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings by Bulgarian artists from the Renaissance in Bulgaria (1762-1877) to the present as well as foreign art.

The Ethnography Museum was founded 80 years ago. Its valuable collection reflects the culture, art, tradition and customs of the people in these lands.

The National Natural Science Museum

Sofia, 1 Ruski Blvd.
tel: 88 51 15 /706

This National Museum is over a century old. Its collection is among the richest in Europe. On display are exceptionally valuable animal species and minerals.

The Land and People National Museum

1421 Sofia, 2 Cherni Vrah Blvd.,
tel: 65 66 39

This Museum is relatively new, it opened in 1987. An innovating architectural project transformed an old industrial building into a contemporary museum. It is a cultural, scientific and educational center on minerals and raw materials. This is truly the world of inanimate nature.

The Archeology Museum

Sofia, 2 Saborna St.
tel: 88 24 05

This Museum is housed in the old Buyuk Mosque built in the 15th century. It was founded over a hundred years ago and has an exceptionally rich collection of ancient and medieval art in the Bulgarian lands.



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Galleries

**Art Gallery of the Union of
Bulgarian Artists**

1040 Sofia, 6 Shipka St.
tel: 44 25 60; 44 61 21

Working hours:
Monday-Sunday 11AM to 8PM

Otechestvo Gallery

Sofia, 18 Vitosha Blvd.
tel: 83 27 63

Working hours:
Monday-Friday 10.30AM to 7PM

National Art Gallery

Sofia, Kniaz Alexander Batenberg Sq.
tel: 88 35 59

Working hours:
Monday-Friday 10AM to 7PM

Sofia City Art Gallery

Sofia, 1 Gurko St.
tel: 87 21 81

Working hours:
Wednesday-Sunday 10.30 AM to 6.30 PM

Phiala from the Rogozen Treasure

It is one of the 165 items, made from gold and silver. 4th century B.C. It's on display at the National Museum of History.

International Foundation "St. St. Kiril and Methodi" Gallery

Sofia, St. Alexander Nevski Sq.
tel: 44 61 57

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tel: 65 74 20

ASEN VASILEV, 48 Solunska St.

tel: 81 32 50

VEK, 30 Alabin St., tel: 89 54 20

19.90, 29 Slavianska St.

tel: 88 58 31(225)

KRIDA ART, 11 Moskovska St.

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LOMI, 78 Rakovski St., tel: 88 32 29

SAPIO, 7 Benkovski St., tel: 73 10 39

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5 Vasil Levski St., tel. 88 28 84

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William Shakespeare

Comedy Of Errors

William Shakespeare

The Great Schemer

after Ilf and Petrov

American Buffalo David Mamet

The End Of The Game

Samuel Beckett

Black Comedy

Peter Shaffer

Christmas Tale

Carl Orf

The Janitor

Harold Pinter

The Price

Arthur Miller

Vassa Zheleznova Maxim Gorky

American Therapy

James Sonders

The Fireplace

Margarit Minkov

Killers

Stefan Gechev

Solfeggio For Dogs

Mihail Velichkov

Antigona

Sophokles

Lorenzaccio

Alfred de Musset

Top Girls

Carol Churchill

The Last Taperecording

Samuel Beckett

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98 Rakovski St., tel. 88 43 65

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Big stage

Waiting For Godot

Samuel Beckett

Requiem For A Nun

William Faulkner

Loulou (Pandora's Box)

Frank Wedekind

The Arts

Wonder

Ivan Radoev

The Fox And The Grapes (Aesopus)

Guilherme Figueiredo

The Duel

Ivan Vazov

Sex, Drugs, Rock&Roll

Eric Bogosian

Tales From The Viennese Woods

Odon von Horvath

Songs For An Idiot (Topaz)

Marcel Pagnol

As You Like It

William Shakespeare

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Jonni Mortimor and Brian Cook

The Butcher, Inside The Room

Karoy Saconi

Happy Days

Samuel Beckett

Guess Where The Gun Is

Gabor Georgey

Five Pregnant Plays

Dario Fo and Franka Rame

On The Other Side Stanislav Stratiev

The Architect Of Babylon And The

Emperor Of Assyria

Fernando Arabal

Sirano De Bergerac

Edmon Rostan

The Arts

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telex: 23 198

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Mozart

SLEEPING BEAUTY - Ballet -

Tchaikovsky

March 93:

SIMON BOCCANEGRA - Verdi

STEFAN MAKEDONSKI

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4 Vasil Levski Blvd., tel. 44 19 79

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Amal And The Night Visitors - Gian Carlo
Menotti

Graf In Maritza - Kalman

Die Zardashfurstin - Kalman

Der Zigeunerbaron - Strauss

Die Fledermaus - Strauss



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Symphonic Concerts

New Year concert of Sofia Festival
Orchestra

Programme: Berlioz, Saint-Saens,
J. Strauss, Chopin, Petko Staynov,
January 01; Hall 1

Symphonic concert of Sofia Festival
Orchestra (dedicated to memory of
Tchaikovsky)

Programme: Concerto for violin, Fifth
Symphony of Tchaikovsky,
January 03; Hall 1

A night of Igor Stravinsky music to mark
the 110th Anniversary of his birth
Symphony Orchestra of Bulgarian
National Radio, March; Hall 1

Opera

The Screw Spinnig Round - Benjamin
Britain, March 20; Hall 2

Performances Free Opera Theatre,
March 22,24,26,28;

Ballet

A night of ballet, January 21; Hall 2

Chamber Music

Piano concert - Daniela Rahneva,
January 20; Hall 9

Author concert of the composer Dimiter
Christov, January 18; Hall 9

Piano concert of Francesco Monopoli
(Italy), January 22; Hall 9

Cycle of concerts "Young conductors,
soloists and composers",
March 10,24; April 7; Hall 7

Concert of Vladimir Tassev - violin,

Violeta Popova - piano, February 4; Hall 9
Chamber concert to mark the 120th
Anniversary of S. Rakhmaninov's birth,
February; Hall 9

Soloists of Macedony Philharmonic and
Vassil Atanasov - oboe, Lyubo Stefanov -
clarinet (two concerts),
January 26; Hall 9; February 26; Hall 9

Jazz

Simeon Shterev - flute,
Lyubomir Denev - piano, January; Hall 9
Yildiz Ibrahimova and Antony Donchev,
February; Hall 9
"Beli, Zeleni, Cherveni", March; Hall 9
Turnovo dixiland with soloist singer
Ivelina Balcheva, March; Hall 12

Cinema

Cinema "Lumiere" - demonstration of
French films given by "GOMON",
January, February, March; Hall 11

Theatre

Sex, Drugs, Rock'n Roll
by Eric Bogosian (USA),
January 5, 9, 15, 22; February; Hall MTI
Faces - experimental theatre show,
January 14, 21, Hall MTI;
February, Hall MTI

Musical by Peter Gabriel - Theatre 13,
March - premiere; Hall 12

In the silence of the cotton fields
by Bernard-Marie Coltes,
January, February; Hall MTI

Blues, poetry, music - on verses by
Farlingetti and unknown translations of
Eric Clapton songs, February; Hall 12



Art Gallery of the Bulgarian Union of Fine Arts. Individual and group collections of art work. Sale of selected items is possible. 6 Shipka St. ☎ 43 351; 44 61 15

Exhibitions

Art-news - private galleries, theatre groups, orchestras, film producers, publishing houses; February

Spring Fashion salon; March 5-31,

Motor Show; March 20-28

International Tourist Exchange
Holidays '93; February 11-14

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GRAZIA, 3 Legue St.

DIPEX, 40 Veslez St.; tel: 83 56 61, sportsware

EOLA, 38 Yanko Sakazov Blvd. jewellery store

PINNA, 9 Slavianska St.; tel: 89 98 25 italian fashion

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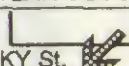


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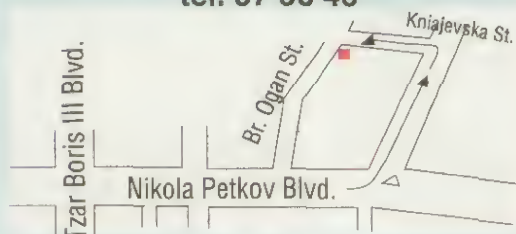
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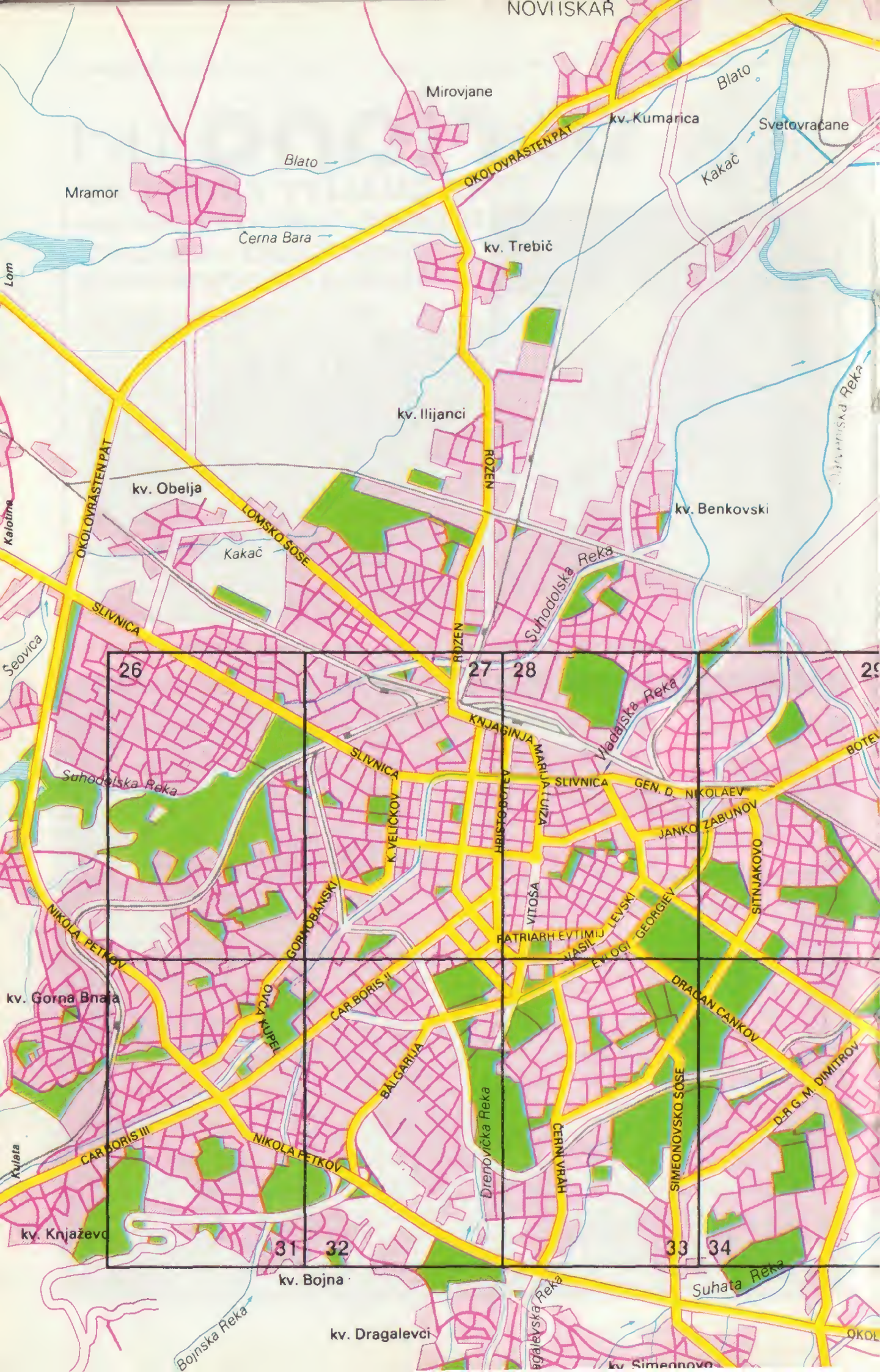
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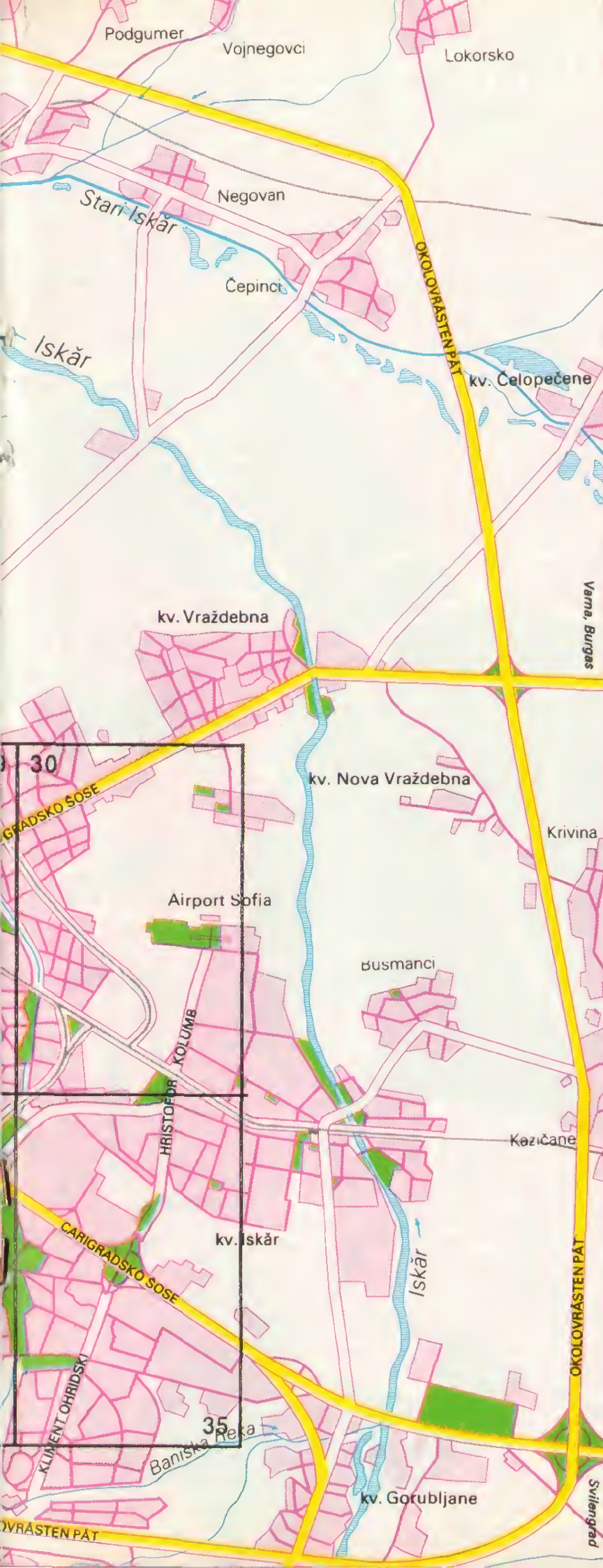
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⌘ Concert hall

⌘ Librari

⌘ Museum

⌘ Church

⌘ Monument

⌘ Archaeological monument

⊕ Emergency aid

⊕ Hospital

You will find detailed maps of different parts of Sofia on pages 26 to 35. Each region is black-lined and has the page number in its corner.



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Cvetnica

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Podkrepa

Rabotničeska Klasa

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Krim

Godet

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Simeon Dimitrov-Saban

Dimitrovgrad

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DZ. NERU

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Narodna Volja

Držav

Dobronič

Riški Prohod

Metohija

Zitnica

743

GORNOBANSKI

ŽK OVČA KUPEL

Prírodný park

26





CENTRALNI
SOFIJSKI GROBIŠTA

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Redgarov Pl.

Bratja Miladinovi
Struga
Klokotnica
Samuil

STAMBOLOV
Knjaz Boris I
Pirotka

STAMBOLJSKI
Pozitano
Ivan

Solunska
Knjaz Boris I
Car Asen II
Neofit

PATRIARH EVTIMIJ

28

202

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Denkoglu

Pl. Garibaldi

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Vladajska Reka

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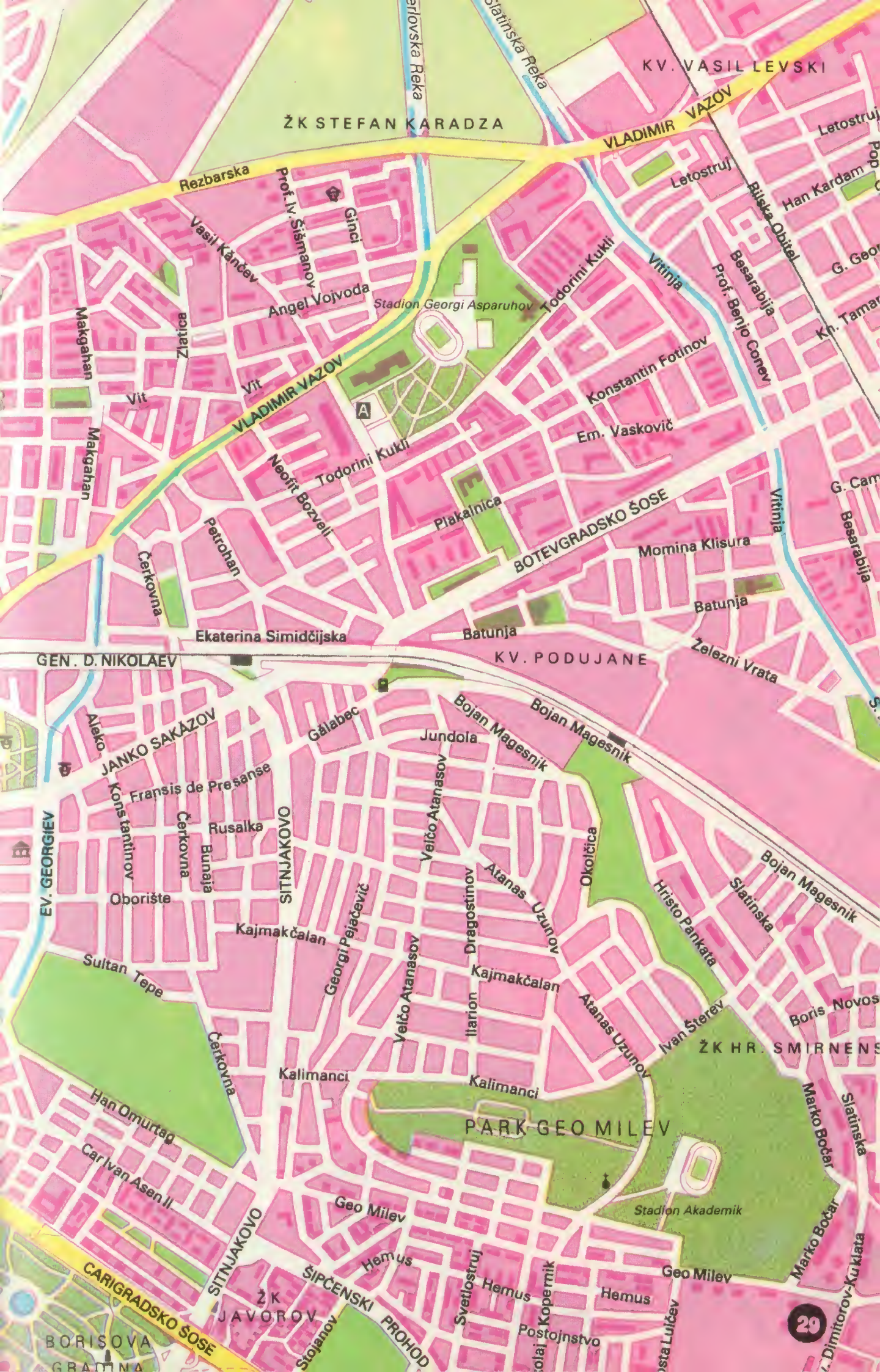
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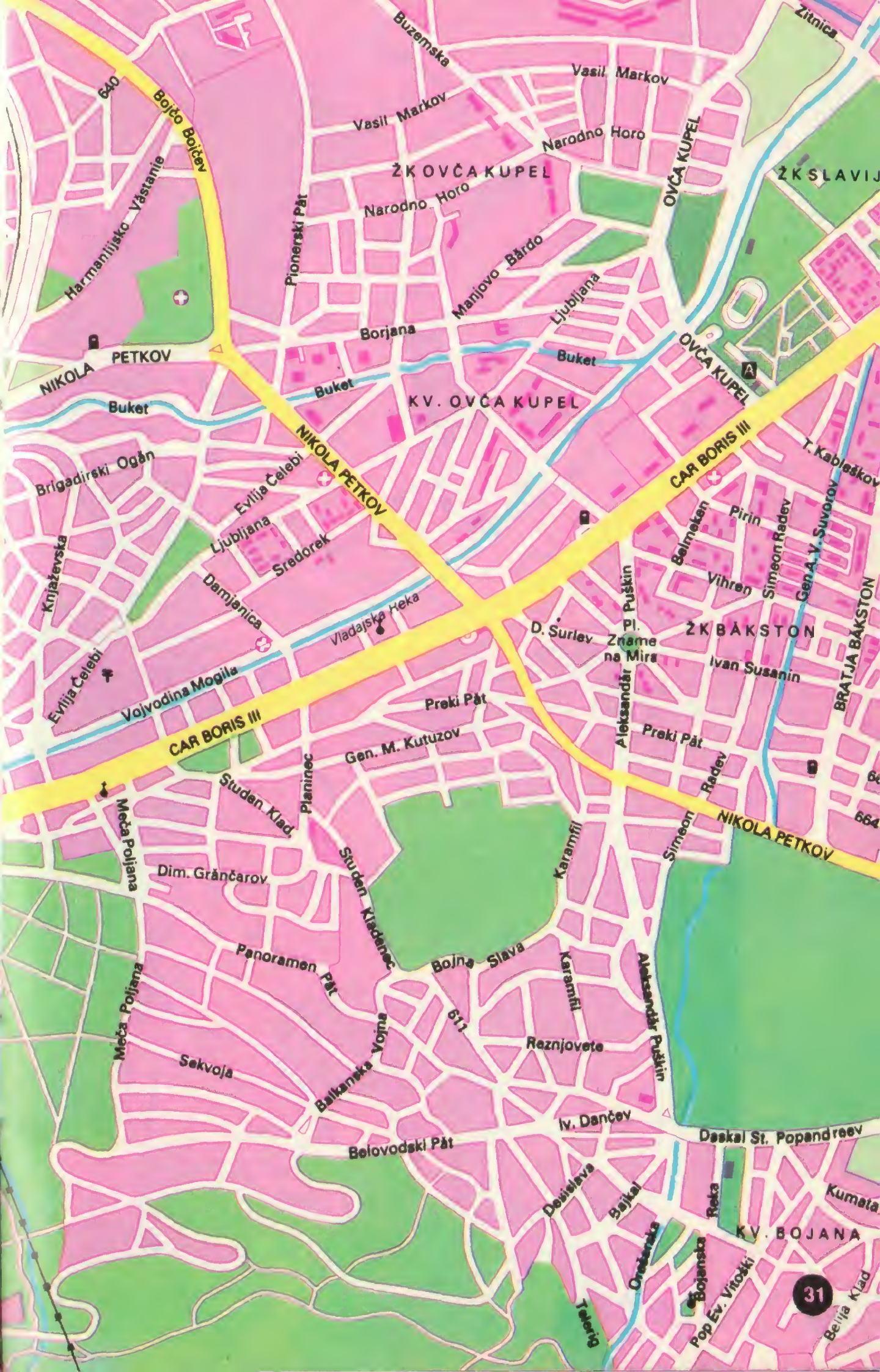
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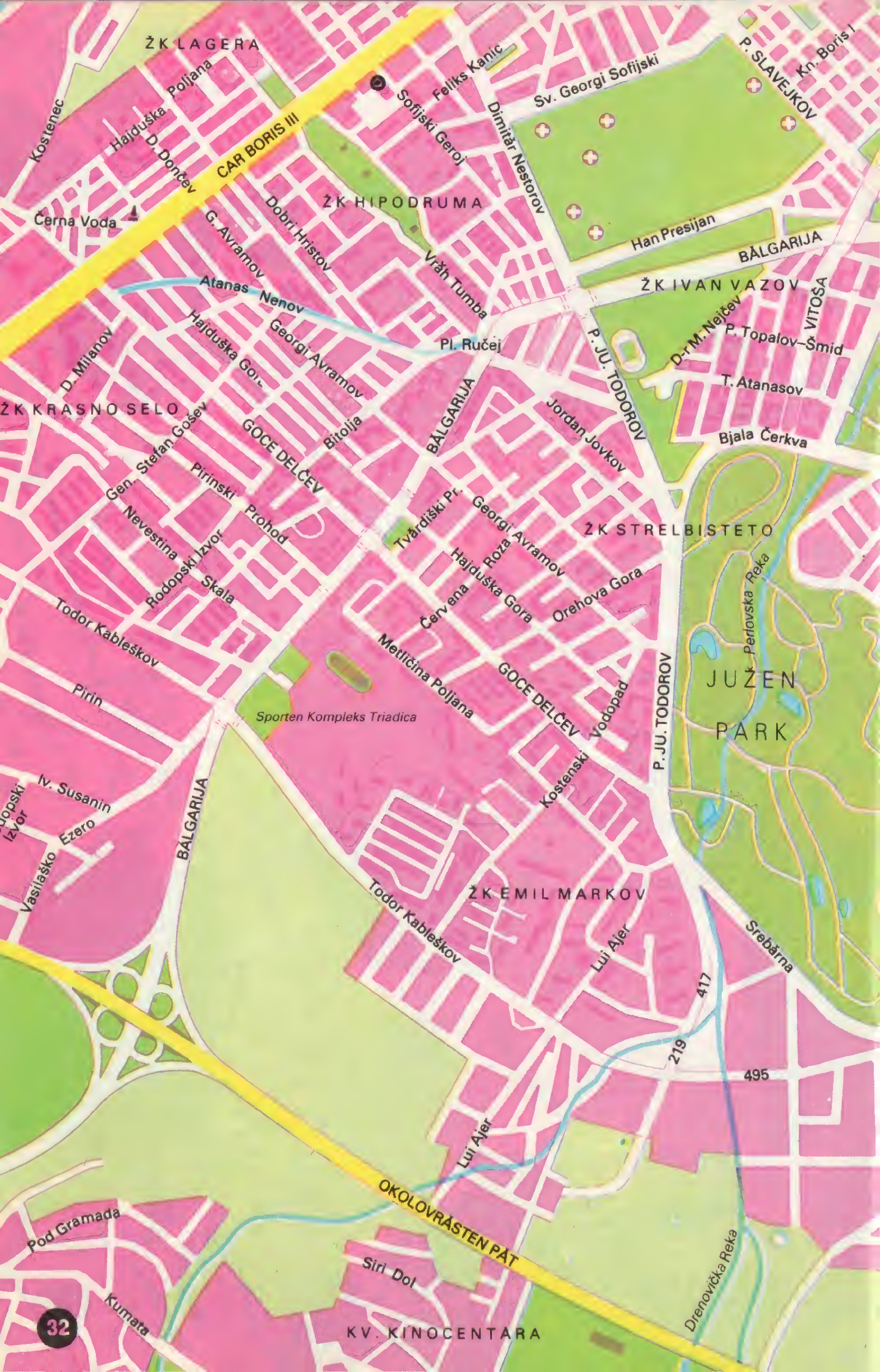
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KV. SLATINA

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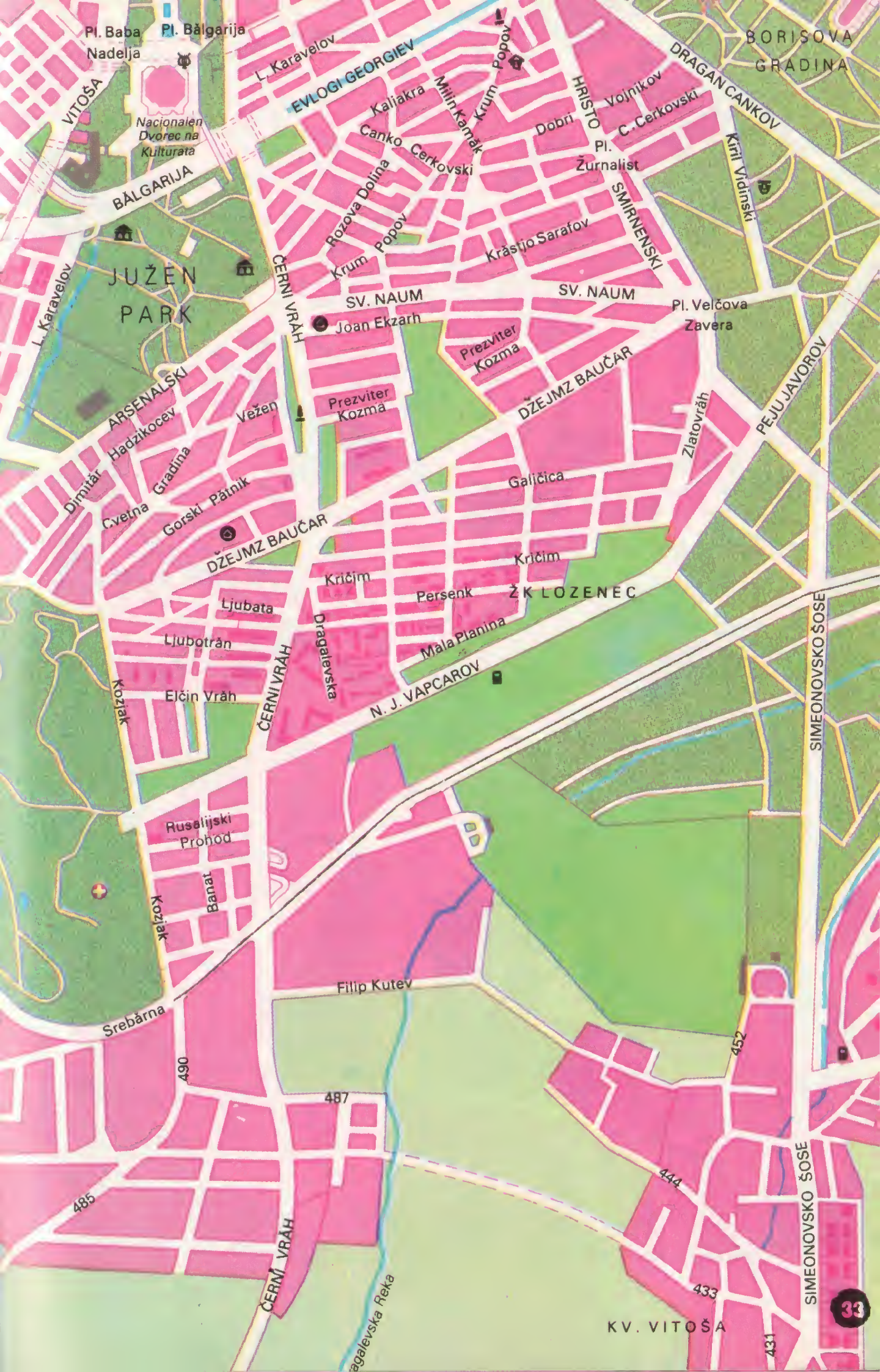
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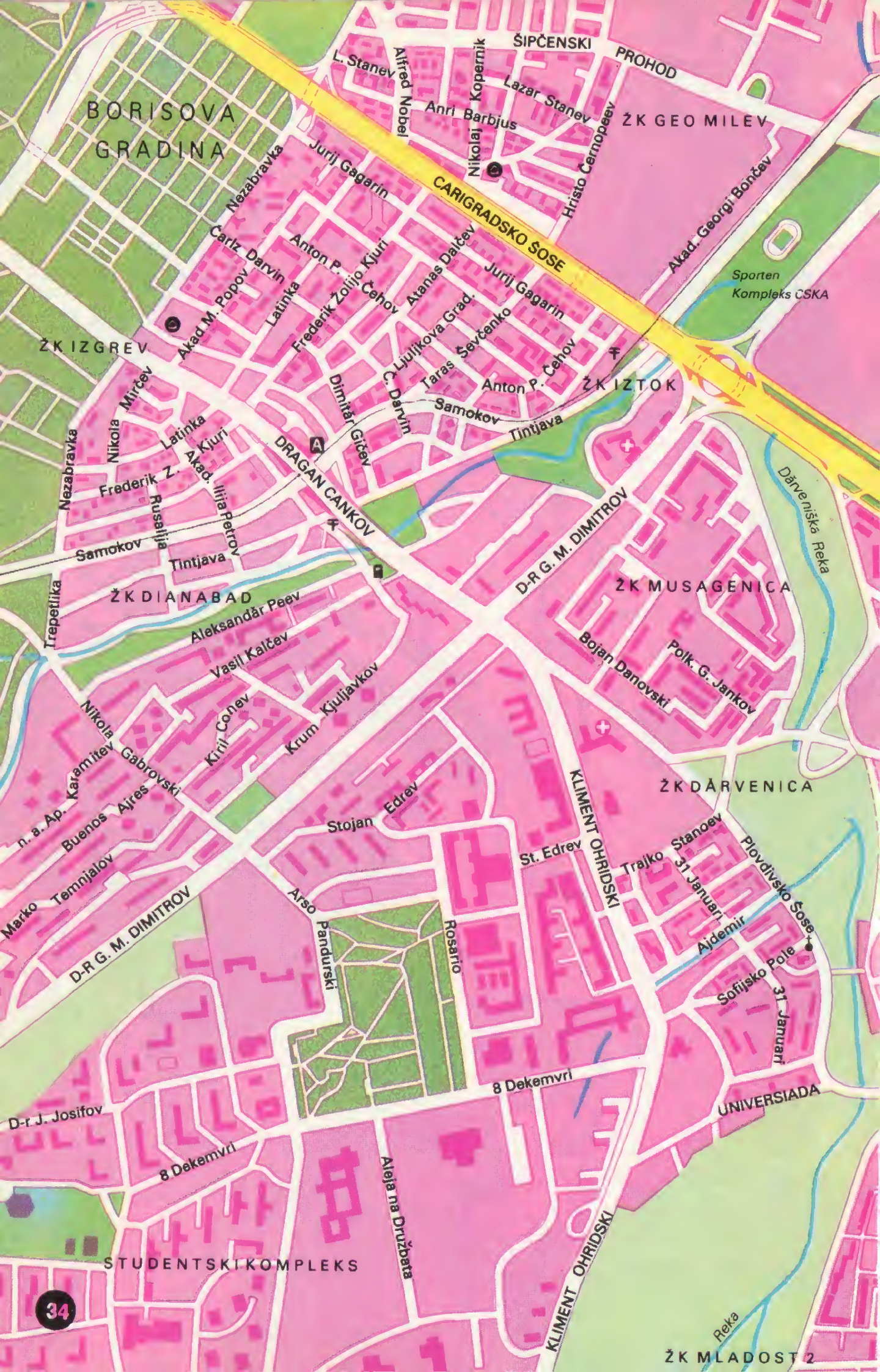
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